

by General Keim, who declared that a war was inevitable.

The unwearied activities of Tirpitz and the Navy League found an eager response. "There is a smell of blood in the air," echoed General Liebert. The political Generals had become a national peril, but some of the journalists and professors were nearly as bad.¹ The peace-loving Bethmann regretfully confesses that Germany got on the nerves of the world.

The European situation was reviewed at this moment in calm but grave tones in Prince Bulow's *Imperial Gevme*.

"The resentment against Germany might well be called the soul of French policy. The other international questions

are more of a material nature and only concern the body. It

is a peculiarity of the French nation that they place spiritual above material needs. The intransigence of France is a fact that

we must reckon with in our political calculations.

It seems to me weakness to entertain the hope of a real and sincere reconciliation with France so long as we have no intention of giving up Alsace-Lorraine, and there is no such intention in Germany.

* So long as France thinks she perceives a possibility of winning back the provinces, either by her own unaided efforts or with the help of others, she will consider the existing arrangement

provisional and not final. The aim of French policy for many

years to come will be to create the necessary conditions, which

are lacking to-day, for a settlement with Germany with good

prospect of success. It is a proof of a lively sense of honour if a

nation suffers so keenly from a simple injury to its pride that

the desire for retribution becomes the ruling passion of the

people."

Friends and observers began to detect a change in the

Kaiser himself. "He spoke with a note which was new to me,"

reported Bishop Boyd Carpenter after a visit to
 Berlin in June,
 1913 ; " I felt that he was under the influence of a
 great fear."
 ** From the beginning of 1913" testifies
 Bethmann, " he spoke
 to me of the coalition which was forming against
 us and would
 fall upon us." His anxiety was revealed to King
 Albert at
 Potsdam in November, 1913. " Enmity against us
 is increas-
 ing," wrote the French Ambassador after the
 Belgian visit,
 " and the Emperor has ceased to be the friend
 of peace.
 His personal influence has been exerted on many
 critical
 occasions, but he has come to think that war
 with France is
 inevitable. As he advances in years, the
 reactionary tendencies

¹ See Vergnet, *La France en danger*^ 1913.